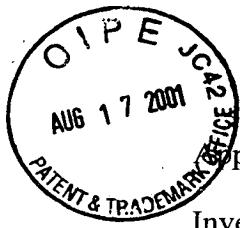


Rec'd PCT/PTO 17 AUG 2001

09/889116 PATENT

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8/21/01



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/889,116

Group No.: Unassigned

Inventors: Woltjes et al.

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: July 9, 2001

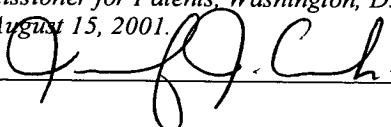
Docket No.: 294-104 PCT/US

For: COMPOSITION BASED ON  
CROSS-LINKED STARCH AND  
DEPOLYMERIZED STARCH  
SUITABLE AS GELATINE  
REPLACEMENT

Dated: August 15, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

*I hereby certify this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to: Asst Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on August 15, 2001.*

Signature: 

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In order to place the application in proper form for examination, applicants hereby amend the application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, after the title of the invention, insert the following:

A' --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Page 3, after line 32, insert the following:

A'' --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Page 12, line 1, change "Detailed description" to the following:

A''' --DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--